

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compressed and processed solid fuel composition for destroying creosote in chimney flues consisting of:

a solid particulate combustible cellulosic material (a);

a creosote-destroying chemical agent (b) chosen from the group consisting of metallic chloride of sodium, potassium, zinc, tin, copper, or ammonium phosphate, trisodium phosphate, ammonium salt and mixtures thereof;

optional additional material (c) selected from the group consisting of: ~~(i) no additional material, (ii)~~ (i) carriers and ~~(iii)~~ (ii) aesthetic agents and odor enhancers; and

relative proportions of (a) and (b) are, by weight, from 50 to 99.9% of (a) and 50 to 00.1% of (b).

2. (Previously presented) The processed solid fuel composition according to claim 1, in the form of a log, said log being compressed at from 10,000 to 20,000 psi.

3. (Previously presented) The processed solid fuel composition according to claim 2, wherein said log is 6 to 14 inches in length.

4. (Previously presented) The processed solid fuel composition according to claim 1, having an autonomous combustion time from 30 minutes to 4 hours.

5. (Original) The processed solid fuel composition according to claim 1, wherein the solid particulate combustible cellulosic material (a) consists entirely of wood particles.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The processed solid fuel composition according to claim 1, wherein the agent (b) comprises a metallic chloride and trisodium phosphate in a proportion of 10 — 90% by weight of the former and 90 — 10% by weight of the latter.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A process for manufacturing a compressed and processed solid fuel composition for destroying creosote within chimney flues, ~~comprising~~ consisting of the steps of:

admixing a solid particulate combustible cellulosic material (a), and a chemical catalytic agent that disaggregates creosote (b), whereby the relative proportions by weight are 50—99.9% of (a), and 50 — 00.1% (b) for 100 parts of (a+b), wherein the resultant mixture consists of (a+b+c), where (c) is optional additional material selected from the group consisting of: ~~(i) no additional material,~~ (ii) (i) carriers and (iii) (ii) aesthetic agents and odor enhancers; and

shaping and compressing the resultant mixture into a generally elongated log.

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein (a) and (b) and (c) are admixed and the resulting mixture is extruded into a log at a pressure of from 10,000 to 20,000 psi.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for forming a solid fuel composition for destroying creosote within a chimney flue of a solid fuel burning appliance, ~~comprising~~ consisting of the steps of:

admixing a solid particulate combustible cellulosic material (a) and a creosote-destroying chemical agent (b) and optional additional material (c) selected from the group consisting of: ~~(i) no additional material, (ii) (i) carriers and (iii) (ii) aesthetic agents and odor enhancers;~~

combining said cellulosic material (a) and chemical agent (b) and additional material (c) to form a substantially homogeneous aggregate; and

forming and compressing said aggregate to render it into a solid elongated form.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for destroying creosote within a chimney flue of a solid fuel burning appliance, said flue having an undesirable accumulation of creosote deposits therein, comprising the steps of:

inserting a creosote-destroying processed solid fuel composition into an existing fire within said appliance, said processed solid fuel composition consisting of:

a. a solid particulate combustible cellulosic material;

b. a chemical agent that disaggregates creosote; and

c. optional additional material selected from the group consisting of: ~~(i) no additional material, (ii) (i) carriers and (iii) (ii) aesthetic agents and odor enhancers;~~

providing ignition and combustion of said solid fuel within said appliance;

releasing said chemical agent in a gaseous form within said flue; and

providing a substantially constant temperature, whereby effectiveness of said chemical agent is optimized, thereby disaggregating and destroying the creosote deposits.

19. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 18, wherein the processed solid fuel composition is in the form of at least one log.